

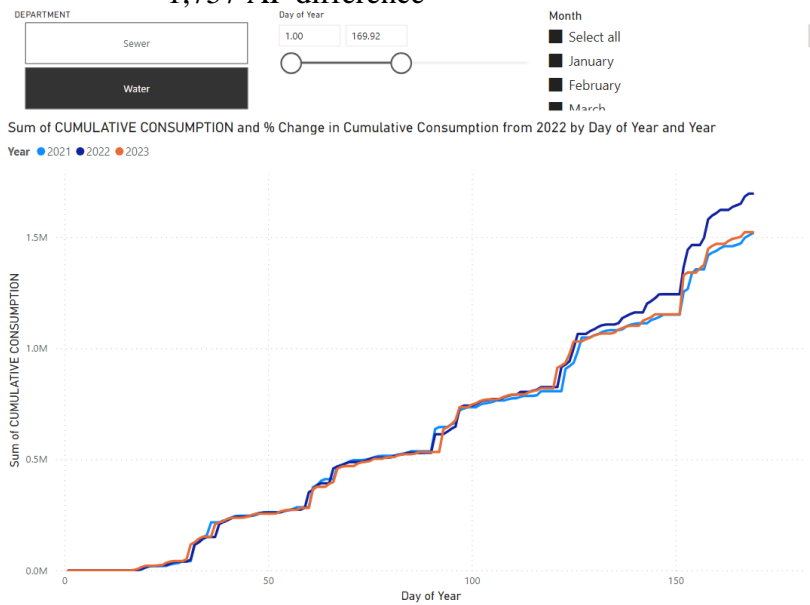


MEMORANDUM

TO: Sean Chambers, Water and Sewer Director
FROM: Alex Tennant, Water Resources Administrator II
DATE: July 11, 2023
RE: July 2023 Runoff Season Review

This Water Year is continuing to develop into an El Nino condition through spring and early summer. The current forecast shows an 84% chance that the remainder of 2023 will result in at least a moderate El Nino condition. Historically, El Nino brings cooler temperatures and wetter conditions than normal in the spring, summer, and fall to Northern Colorado. This has clearly been the case in 2023. A Few Key statistics for Greeley so far this year:

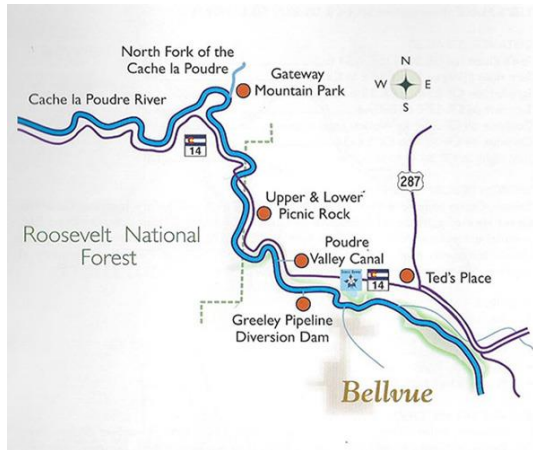
- Below Average Temperatures
 - o January, February, March, April, June, and July to date were all below average
- Above Average Precipitation
 - o 13.47 inches for the year through 6/30/2023 vs the historical average of 8.56 inches
- Production
 - o 9,675 AF of produced water from Boyd and Bellvue through June 2023 compared to the average 11,432 AF from the past five years.
 - - 1,757 AF difference



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We promise to preserve and improve the quality of life for Greeley through timely, courteous and cost effective service.

The river call administration and sustained high flow this year on the South Platte and Poudre rivers have been unique. Since the last time Colorado was without drought conditions in 2019, the state has been very dry. Reservoirs across the front range and out east were much below 50% capacity coming into this year. This meant the River Commissioners were unable to allow free river conditions more than a few days before the rain began in May. Once the rain did begin in early May, things changed drastically. Delayed melt due to cooler temperatures combined with rain along the front range cities and rain/snow mix in the mountains created an extended runoff season for almost all the South Platte tributaries north of the Palmer Divide.



The South Platte has been on free river since May 12th. The call is often on/off from February-May depending on lower basin water supply, but a call typically comes on in June and stays on into November. The threshold for a controlling direct flow call (1936 priority date) coming on the lower SP is 1,600cfs. This year the South Platte has been running above 2,000cfs since May 12th.

Cache la Poudre has been on free river (no call on the river) since May 5th. The call did come on briefly 7/4 but was released on 7/6. This is also atypical for the CLP. The peak runoff was about 2,500 cfs at the canyon mouth gauge near Bellvue which is not abnormal, but the flow has been at or above 1,000cfs up until the beginning of July. Usually, the CLP runoff peaks quickly and drops off for a senior direct flow call to begin the first week of July. All reservoirs were able to fill this year and some ditches were able to get through the first cutting of alfalfa without delivering water to shareholders. Greeley's High Mountain Reservoir (HMR) system yielded over 4,000 acre-feet of supply with the majority of that rented out to agriculture.

Finally, in addition to Cache la Poudre River, reservoirs across the Colorado River and northern South Platte tributaries are 100% full; however, the wet, cool spring and early summer has resulted in low irrigation demands which resulted in spilling of Windy Gap.